

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 060226
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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:THGERTH/RN
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TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:HU, US, SHUM

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON HUNGARIAN DISSIDENTS

1. WASHINGTON POST MARCH 7 CARRIED ARTICLE BY MICHAEL
GETLER SENT YOU BY WIRELESS FILE.

2. DEPARTMENT PREPARED FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE:

QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE HUNGARIANS'
FORCING FOUR OF THEIR DISSIDENTS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY?
HOW DO YOU SQUARE THIS WITH THE RETURN OF THE CROWN AND
THE FACT THAT THEY WILL EVIDENTLY BE GRANTED MFN SOON?

ANSWER: WE ARE AWARE THAT THE INDIVIDUALS MENTIONED IN
THE POST STORY HAVE LEFT HUNGARY. WE DON'T HAVE ALL THE
FACTS IN THE CASE. HOWEVER, IF THEY WERE FORCED TO LEAVE,
THIS WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE SOMETHING TO BE REGRETTEED, ESPE-
CIALLY IN VIEW OF HUNGARY'S COMPARATIVELY GOOD RECORD
IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA AMONG EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

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NO QUESTIONS WERE POSED AT MARCH 7 OR 8 NOON BRIEFINGS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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